

9-8-2015

# Current, September 08, 2015

University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Students gather to watch the monks' creation of the sand mandala in the Fireside Lounge

CHRIS ZUVER/THE CURRENT

## UMSL Welcomes Buddhist Monks

CHRIS ZUVER  
STAFF WRITER

On September 1, a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery entered the Fireside Lounge of the University of Missouri—

St. Louis' Millennium Student Center (MSC) and began their work. From September 1 through September 3, the men from the Tibetan monastery invited everyone to watch as they created a complex work of art depicting many colorful and meaningful designs

out of sand. The result was called a sand mandala.

"A sand mandala is a house," said monk group leader Geshe Tsewang. "There are many types of sand mandalas. This one is a peace mandala, which is, of course, a symbol of peace."

Patty Maher, a St. Louis event coordinator, collaborated with UMSL's Dean of Student Affairs, Tegan Klevorn, in order to put the event together. Its intention was to teach visitors about the ways of the monks, raise awareness

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## National Hazing Prevention Week Begins Sept 21

ZYRA DE LOS REYES  
STAFF WRITER

"These hands don't haze" is a phrase that University of Missouri—St. Louis students will become familiar with throughout the semester.

To celebrate National Hazing Prevention Week, as well as increase awareness, The office of student life organized several events. UMSL will start off the week with one of its featured events at 6 p.m. on September 21 in Century Room A in the Millennium Student Center, with a panel of experts that will discuss hazing prevention on campus and what UMSL has in place to prevent hazing within the school grounds.

Cecelia Abshire, the organizer for this event and graduate assistant in the Office of Student Life, explained that the selected panel of experts are Dr. Bettina Casad, assistant professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences; Nigel Partee, an UMSL police

officer; Carynn Smith, a representative from National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) fraternities and sororities; and Colleen Pace, the coordinator of fraternity and sorority life and student organizations.

"We want as many students as possible to participate in National Hazing Prevention Week. We want to ensure that the entire campus is aware of the resources we provide to prevent hazing here at UMSL," said Abshire.

On September 23, there will be an event in the rotunda called "Shed a Light on Hazing." All students are welcome to participate in this laid-back interactive game in which they will be tested on their knowledge about hazing prevention and resources. In the evening a mixer with the UMSL Police Department will be held in MSC Century Room C from 6 to 7:30 p.m. where officers can speak to students. They will also have coffee and donuts for this event.

Each year, [hazingprevention.org](http://hazingprevention.org) sponsors a national poster competition to be the nationwide campaign poster for the next year. "These Hands Don't Haze" is the theme for the poster competition, which is open to all students. Everyone is encouraged to participate and submit their entry before September 15 to <https://orgsync.com/56515/forms/147529>. The Office of Student Life will forward all submissions to

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Sidewalk and Access Road on Campus Closing Temporarily

LORI DRESNER  
NEWS EDITOR

A sidewalk and an access road on the North Campus at the University of Missouri—St. Louis will be closed temporarily due to some renovations taking place. Bob Samples, Associate Vice Chancellor of Communications, sent out a campus-wide email on September 4, informing students, faculty and staff of the two closures. Beginning September 8, the sidewalk on the eastern

side of the Thomas Jefferson Library will be closed for a little over two weeks. The closure is due to the replacement of the elevators in the library. Those walking will be directed to the western side of the library by signage and barriers. The access road between the J.C. Penney Building and Recreation and Wellness Center will also be closed on September 5, as crews apply new sealant. It is expected to reopen no later than September 8.

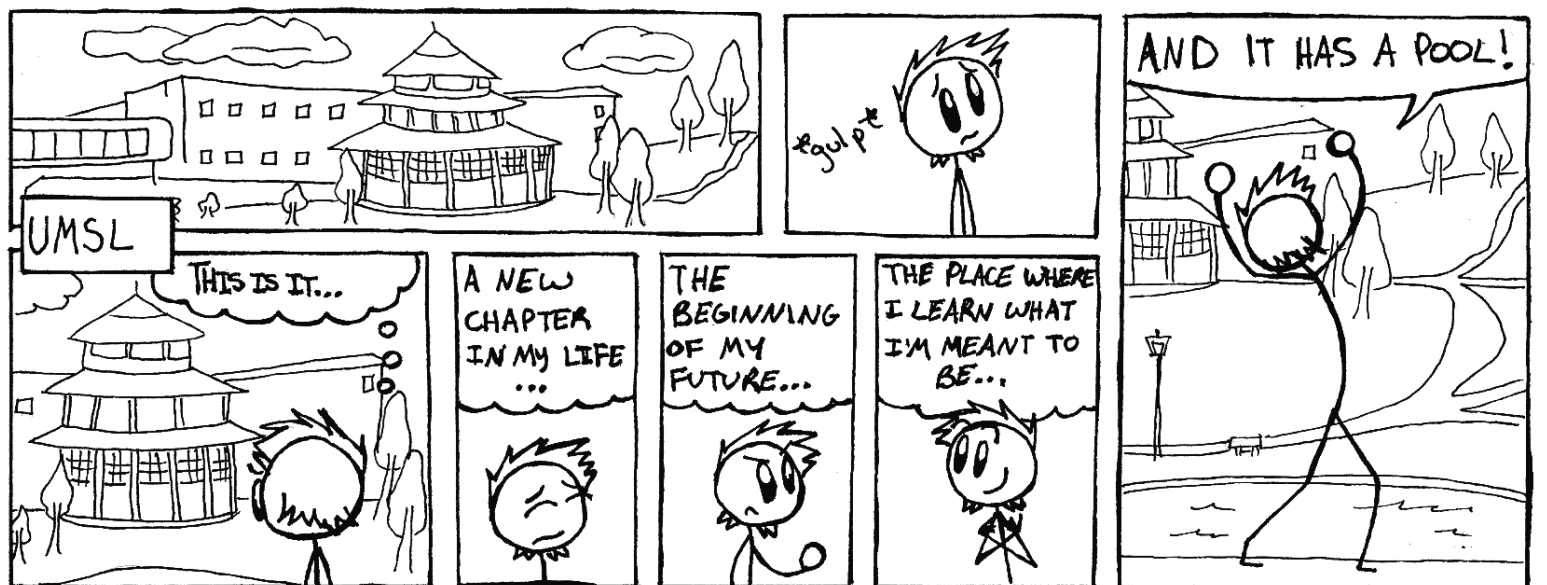
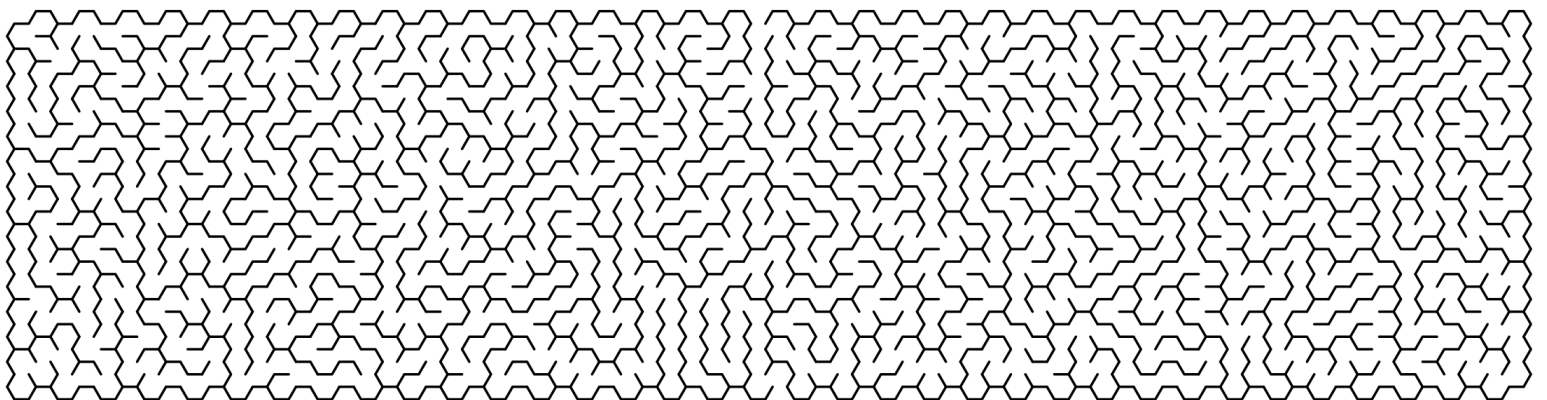
## Changes to Student Printing at UMSL

LORI DRESNER  
NEWS EDITOR

On August 24, the Instructional Support staff at the University of Missouri—St. Louis sent out an email regarding changes to student printing charges. Starting this semester, students who exceed the \$30 printing limit will now be able to manage their additional printing funds by logging into MyTritonPrint at <https://apps.umsl.edu/webapps/ITS/Pharos/User/login.cfm>. This change comes as one of many efforts to make UMSL a greener campus

and reduce paper waste. In August 2010, UMSL began the effort to raise awareness about the amount of printing done on campus. Since then, UMSL has been collecting data from students and instructors about their printing needs. Over the last five years there has been a 60 percent reduction in the number of pages printed, from over 12 million to just above five million during the 2014-2015 academic year. More information about printing at UMSL can be found at [www.umsl.edu/tritonprint/index.html](http://www.umsl.edu/tritonprint/index.html).

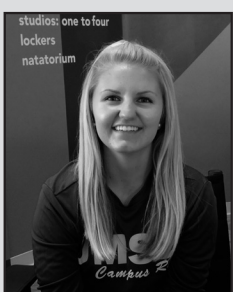
## Game Corner Difficulty: Syllabus Day! :D



Lea Ribbing

## THE UNDERCURRENT *By Kat Riddler*

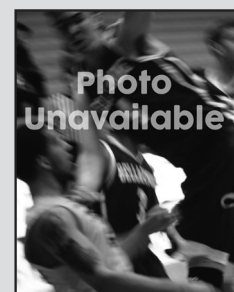
### ARE YOU PART OF OR PLAN TO JOIN GREEK LIFE?



LINDSEY NOLAN,  
Sophomore, Marketing  
"Yes, I am in Delta Zeta."



SEAN RANEY,  
Freshman, Undecided  
"No and No"



CHRYSTAL LIM,  
Freshman, Elementary Education  
"Possibly"

MON 93  
75

TUE 91  
70

WED 82  
66

THU 83  
63

FRI 77  
57

SAT 73  
54

SUN 76  
57



# SGA: Campus Changes

MARY CHICKOS  
STAFF WRITER

The first University of Missouri—St. Louis Student Government Association (SGA) assembly meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year took place on September 4. It was held at 12:30 p.m. in the SGA Chamber at the Millennium Student Center. The meeting opened with a motion to adopt the agenda, which was approved and seconded. The minutes of the May 8, 2015 meeting were approved and seconded.

The athletics department was represented by Jeff Franta, coordinator of external operations in the UMSL Athletic Department. “I am trying to improve awareness of UMSL athletic events around campus and in the community,” said Franta. There was a flyer about the upcoming Triton Tailgate that will be held on September 12 at 5 p.m. in the Mark Twain Athletic and Fitness Center. There will be games, contests, gift cards and snacks, as well as a showing of “Space Jam” at 7:30 p.m. This is open to all students with an ID. Go to [umsltritons.com](http://umsltritons.com) for more information on upcoming athletic events.

Several people spoke about the

Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) that recently opened. Andy Bruni, coordinator of membership and guest services at the RWC, and Dan Bettmann, assistant director of competitive sports, talked about membership, open recreation, intramural sports and employment in the new RWC. “A variety of sports are offered each semester including basketball, volleyball, soccer and flag football. The facility is student focused but is open to faculty, staff and the community,” said Bettmann. There is equipment available for checkout, locker rooms, swim lessons, personal training and advanced fitness facilities. For more information go to [www.umsl.edu/campusrecreation](http://www.umsl.edu/campusrecreation). For intramural sport registration go to [www.IM-Leagues.com/UMSL](http://www.IM-Leagues.com/UMSL).

David McGraw, President of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri (ASUM), explained that the UM system is looking for 12 students, three who attend UMSL, to serve as legislative interns promoting the concerns of higher education at the state level. The students can get up to six hours of internship credit for this and most

Continued online at  
[thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

# National Hazing Prevention Week Soon

ZYRA DE LOS REYES  
STAFF WRITER

Continued from Page 1  
[hazingprevention.org](http://hazingprevention.org) and for the national competition, a student will receive \$500 for the first place prize and two runner-ups will get \$100 each. The top poster will be available for download for next year’s National Hazing Prevention Week and the best poster selected will be assigned as the National Hazing Prevention Week poster.

Students can expect to see the Fireside Lounge surrounded by posters submitted through UMSL all throughout the week as well. Students, faculty and staff can stop by and vote for their favorite poster. Prizes will be granted to the campus winners.

“I want to see more students to join the competition this year and I would like to see how visually creative they can get. Whenever there is a call for art event, it’s a great opportunity for the gallery to get the word out,” said Stuart Shadwell, the Gallery Visio director.

“It is important for all UMSL

students to be aware of National Hazing Prevention Week because UMSL is a safe environment for all students. Students need to know that we will not tolerate hazing on our campus; hazing is illegal and has severe consequences. National Hazing Prevention Week helps to educate students on what can be classified as hazing, what to do if you see hazing occurring on campus/within the campus community and it assists in creating a safe atmosphere,” said Abshire.

In accordance with state law, UMSL does not condone or tolerate hazing of any type by any organization, or by an individual against another individual. The Office of Student Life will investigate any incident in which a charge of hazing has been made. University recognition may be temporarily withdrawn, pending hearings and due process procedures.

Information on hazing and other prohibited activities can be found in UMSL’s student handbook. For more information on National Hazing Prevention week, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ozlylfd>.



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# Meeting the Greeks

JANECE WOODSON  
STAFF WRITER

Sororities and fraternities alike welcomed students with music and snacks on the University of Missouri—St. Louis' Millennium Student Center lawn on September 2 for the Meet the Greeks gathering. There, prospective members had the chance to meet some of the executives of the sororities and fraternities and ask any pertinent questions they had about Greek life.

There are 15 sororities and fraternities on UMSL's campus. The average chapter at UMSL has about 42 members, according to the Office of Greek Life.

"I personally think because we're a commuter campus, we run our chapters differently," said Jade Kiser, senior, special education, president of the Panhellenic Association at UMSL. "It feels like our chapters are part of a smaller college, but we still have the large university experience."

Besides the usual hooks of friendship, distinction and networking, one focal point for interested students was the connection between Greek life and community service. All Greek organizations at UMSL are expected to maintain community service standards and this often leads to a more prominent sense of community. Every chapter must hold one community service event and a separate philanthropic



Drew Haugen, Janelle Miller, and Jade Kiser represent their chapters at Meet the Greeks at the Rotunda Patio of outside the MSC  
ARIEL RANCHER-SHIELDS/THE CURRENT

event per semester. In the past year alone, UMSL's 14 chapters raised more than \$22,000 for charity and logged over 4,000 hours of helping others.

In addition to planning and hosting service events, each chapter member must contribute an average of 10 hours of some form of community service. According to the UMSL Office of Greek Life, "Community service is hands-on service and does not include monetary donation or goods collected."

The leaders and members of UMSL's chapters seem intent on committing themselves to this goal. "You are motivated to be more involved because of your brothers and sisters," said Drew Haugen, junior, nursing, president of Interfraternity Council and member of Sigma Tau Gamma.

"[I joined] to help out my community and have fun doing it," said Sigma Tau Gamma member Matt Connell, sophomore, engineering.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than a quarter of St. Louis residents live below the poverty level. Several UMSL fraternities and sororities seek to combat issues like poverty in the community. "In this past year, our chapters here will have fed 1,100 families," said Kiser.

Some sorority and fraternity programming also tackles other problems like terminal illnesses, sexual and racial discrimination and declining academic goals in youth. Each chapter has the freedom to decide what aspect of the community they wish to contribute to; for example, one chapter chose to collect shoes and donated 943 pairs to a local charity. The Beta Delta chapter,

Continued online at [thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

# Study Abroad Fair Has Amazing Opportunities for Students

ALEX NEUPERT  
SPORTS EDITOR

The fall semester was well underway as students shuffled through the Millennium Student Center at University of Missouri—St. Louis on September 2. This particular morning, the second floor main hall and rotunda were lined with a dozen tables, showing both new and returning students exciting opportunities for their academic futures. The Study Abroad fair, which the UMSL Study Abroad Office holds every year, showcased the many different programs available to UMSL students.

Students can choose from over 30 countries and over 80 universities around the world through one of three different types of programs: exchange, other (affiliate and non-UMSL) and faculty led. In exchange programs, students are enrolled directly in the foreign university, take classes with local students and stay for either a semester or full year. Most faculty led programs run for two to three weeks during the summer or winter intersession. Non-UMSL programs are dis-

tinct from exchange programs because they are organized by private organizations or other universities. Over 20 different programs were on display.

The newest one introduces a new course, PSYCH 4000: Intergroup Relations, to UMSL and will take students on a trip through London and Athens next summer. The course examines the nature of relations between human groups and the psychological mechanisms that drive them. "Students will research cultural and economic influences on social identity in the European Union, comparing the two countries we'll be visiting," explained Bettina Casad, PhD, and assistant professor in UMSL's Department of Psychology, who will lead the program. "[Students] will examine the Greek financial crisis and its effects on the European Union." She seemed very excited as she struck up a conversation with one of her students.

Nate Daugherty, study abroad and faculty led programs coordinator, looked every bit as enthusiastic as Casad was. He interacted with many

Continued online at [thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

## OPEN DOORS WITH A DEGREE IN ANTHROPOLOGY



For information on UMSL's BA in Anthropology, Minor in Anthropology, Archaeology Certificate, or Certificate in Greek Studies, please call 314-516-6020.



I am Patrilie Hernandez. I graduated with a BA in Anthropology in 2012. Today I am using my degree to develop policies, promote food justice, and advocate for a hunger-free community while improving the nutrition, health, economic security, and well-being of low-income families in our nation's capitol. Upon graduating from UMSL with my BA in Anthropology, I completed a year of service as an AmeriCorps VISTA at Bay Area Food Bank in Alabama, where I embraced the opportunity to see feeding programs at work and became even more passionate about eradicating hunger in underserved communities. Then I become the Child Nutrition Program Associate at DC Hunger Solutions. Currently, I am pursuing a Masters of Science in Nutrition Education at American University and anticipates the completion of my degree in 2016. My background in anthropology gives me a unique understanding of food not only as nutrition, but also as a key part of culture and human connection.

My name is Jason N. Vasser and I earned a degree in anthropology in the spring of 2012. My field is cultural anthropology and my area of interest is African Diaspora Studies. I have an immense sense of pride and as an alumni, I have given time, resources, and energy to current students and the members of the Association of Student Anthropologists, of which I served as president. *College days swiftly pass imbued with memories fond*, and since graduating I have earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing. My work has appeared in *Blast Furnace*, *The Sphinx*, and *Prairie Gold: An anthology of America's Heartland*, UMSL's *Bellerive* and others. Currently, I teach English at Harris-Stowe State University, write poetry, and am committed to service within the community.



# St. Louis Artists Want Your ‘Nervous Laughter’



“Choice or Chosen” by Deborah Alma Wheeler  
ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT

**SARAH HAYES**  
A&E EDITOR

Saint Louis is an architectural city of concrete and steel, new designs built on top of and wedged between the ancient sculptures and aging buildings of its history. It is a city that moves forward while remaining in the trappings of its culture-based living memory, entrenched in religion, economics, sociology and what is born through the intersection of the three. Local artists have been working to capture the complexities of these various differences, and three modern artists are now displaying their works with their visual representations of the anxieties that regularly affect those caught in the trap of modern living.

“Exposure 18: Nervous Laughter” is the current art exhibition at the University of Missouri—St. Louis’ Gallery 210; it officially opened on August 29. The artists in “Nervous Laughter” are all St. Louis natives whose installations are rooted in the stress that comes from living in an intra-divided community. The featured artists are Aimee Howard, Deborah Alma Wheeler, and Brett Williams; the exhibit itself is a part of the Exposure series by the St. Louis Art Gallery Association and is a regular event at Gallery 210.

Walking through the gallery room of “Nervous Laughter,” the most apparent theme throughout all three artists’ pieces is tension—tension with society and tension of the self. Wheeler’s pieces are prominently from the point of view of someone who grew up caught between the pressures of the Christian faith and being a member of the LGBT community. One of the largest pieces is Wheeler’s “Religion f\*\*ked me”, where she has strewn rose petals across a bed that looks slept in, while the bedside table features an ornate open copy of the Bible and a cast rubber dildo shaped like Jesus.

While Wheeler displayed more pieces of objects in life set in contradicting scenes, such as the book and the sex toy, Howard’s displays show the artist’s skill with metalwork, especially copper and bronze. Her art is split between two different series, both sharing the

concept of examining the body on both a visceral level and a psychological level. The ‘Catharsis’ series features pieces such as the “Guilt Debilitator,” a device created by Howard to alleviate a fake syndrome which has real life symptoms, in answer to how disease affects both the ill person and those who are in close contact with that person.

However, there is no disputing that the most noticeable and magnetic piece in the entire “Nervous Laughter” exhibit is Brett Williams’ mixture of visual and audio, “Consonance/Dissonance.” The set is a combination of cables, metal and wood, various electronics including a guitar amp and a microphone that swings from a complicated-looking device, bumping into elaborately placed symbols and setting off sounds that reverberate through the room. It is a loud piece that attracts attention and takes up nearly half of the room but between the swing of the mic and the sounds coming out of the speaker, it is also strangely hypnotic.

The issues and questions expressed in the “Nervous Laughter” exhibit are not simple ones to digest, like the pieces themselves. Depending on the viewer, a piece can elicit a wistful sigh, a knowing nod, a revolted look or even a bout of nervous laughter - thus the title of the exhibit. According to the program, nervous laughter is a normal reaction in “social situations that are unfamiliar or challenging, especially when confronting circumstances or ideas that run counter to societal norms or deeply held beliefs.”

For college students, it is commonplace in the classroom to be confronted by ideas they would have never experi-

enced in their everyday private life but never in the outspoken, dynamic way that these artists are expressing them now. These Saint Louis natives have taken to metal, wood and plastic to express these issues of individual versus society in a medium that confronts the mundane life with real life. Whatever reaction they garner, whether it be an

awkward chuckle or a hasty retreat, people are engaging with their work—and that is the point.

“Exposure 18: Nervous Laughter” will be running at Gallery 210 until October 3. For further information on upcoming 210 shows, students can visit [umsl.edu/~gallery](http://umsl.edu/~gallery) for an exhibit schedule.



“Guilt Debilitator” by Aimee Howard, nickel over copper and brass  
ERIC WYNEN/THE CURRENT



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# Think Again: Intramurals Are for Everyone

KAT RIDDLER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Competitive or not, intramural leagues offer the University of Missouri—St. Louis students a chance to relieve stress, have fun and exercise for free. The Recreation and Wellness Center (RWC) is organizing several intramural sports for UMSL students to play this fall. They offer leagues for 3-on-3 basketball, 4-person volleyball, arena flag football, dodgeball and wiffleball. All sports except 3-on-3 basketball have the option of coed, men’s and women’s leagues to participate in. 3-on-3 basketball only offers men’s and women’s teams.

There are numerous intramural sport options, so the RWC set up a survey in June to measure the interest of students in different sports that they would like to play. Their goal is to have as few forfeits as possible but each team is allowed two for their season.

“Ultimately, it is the students’ program, and they will have say in our offerings and policies,” Dan Bettmann, assistant director of competitive sports, said. “I love hearing feedback for those invested in the program; people actively participating in the leagues will be heard.”

### PLAY Intramural Sports

Everyone is doing it.  
Go to: [www.umsl.edu/campusrecreation](http://www.umsl.edu/campusrecreation)

Fall Intramural Leagues			Spring Intramural Leagues		
Sport	Registration Open Date	Registration Deadline	Sport	Registration Open Date	Registration Deadline
Wiffleball (M, W, C)	Monday, August 24	Thursday, September 3 - 4:00 PM	Indoor Soccer (M, W, C)	Tuesday, January 5	Tuesday, January 26 - 4:00 PM
Arena Flag Football (M, W, C)	Tuesday, September 1	Tuesday, September 22 - 4:00 PM	Basketball (M, W, C)	Tuesday, January 19	Tuesday, February 2 - 4:00 PM
3v3 Basketball (M, W)	Tuesday, September 8	Tuesday, September 29 - 4:00 PM	Floor Hockey (M, W, C)	Tuesday, February 2	Tuesday, February 23 - 4:00 PM
Dodgeball (M, W, C)	Tuesday, September 29	Tuesday, October 20 - 4:00 PM	6-Player Volleyball (M, W, C)	Tuesday, February 23	Tuesday, March 15 - 4:00 PM
4-Player Volleyball	Tuesday, October 13	Tuesday, November 3 - 4:00 PM	MAC Challenge League (M, W, C)	Tuesday, March 18	Friday, April 8 - 4:00 PM

### Fall Intramural Events

Event	Event Date and Time
Sand Volleyball Tournament	Wednesday, September 2 - 4:30 PM
Trivia Night	Thursday, September 17 - 7:00 PM
College Football Pick'Em	Fridays: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6 by 11:55 PM
Family Weekend Fun Run	Saturday, October 17 - 10:00 AM

### Spring Intramural Events

Event	Event Date and Time
Rock Climbing Challenge	Wednesday, January 27 - 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
Badminton Tournament	Friday, February 5 - 6:00 PM
Basketball Skills Night	Tuesday, February 9 - 7:00 PM-10:00 PM
Bracketology	Thursday, March 17 - Turned in by 10:00 AM

Visit [www.IMLeagues.com/UMSL](http://www.IMLeagues.com/UMSL) for League Registration

\*M=Men, W=Women, C=Co-Ed

Fall and Spring schedule for Intramural Sports

COURTESY OF DAN BETTMANN

After assessing the popularity and interest in sports that will have a strong turn out, they looked at three core policies: safety, sportsmanship and fun, according to Bettmann. In the spring they will offer leagues for indoor soccer, basketball, floor hockey, 6-player volleyball and MAC Challenge, which has wiffle ball, arena football, dodgeball, indoor soccer and floor hockey. All the sport descriptions, schedules and information are located on the RWC’s website. Until the outdoor fields are ready, the sports are restricted to indoor space.

Bettmann said, “Ideally, we would have an outdoor component to the intramural sports schedule but unfortunately that was not an option for this year due to outdoor space not being available. Creativity was needed in making the schedule, so not being able to do outdoor flag football meant that we are doing indoor arena flag football which is a 5v5 version that is pass-only and higher scoring.”

Brendan McCoy, sophomore, mechanical engineering, is an umpire at the RWC. Although he works there, he is excited to be allowed to participate in the intramural sports as well. He said, “With the new center we’re hoping to have a much better turnout than at Twain. We have a lot of new sports that weren’t

offered in the past. Intramural sports are a great way for someone to begin a new sport, since it offers a combination of a competitive atmosphere but laid back enough to enjoy the games with friends. Still yet, with the competitive atmosphere, veterans in each sport still have upper-lever players to compete against.”

Because this will be the first intramural sports league held in the new RWC, intramurals will be giving the winning teams shirts that read “First Intramural Champion 2015-2016.” The shirts come in either blue with green lettering or orange with blue lettering. Some of these commemorative t-shirts can be won on social media by commenting either blue or orange. Winners will be randomly selected.

Students interested in joining the leagues for a chance to wear either color shirt need to register on IMLeagues.com., a national intramural scheduling website. Students can sign-in on-site for their games during the regular season but to participate in the playoffs they will need to be on the IMLeagues roster. Joining the IMLeagues early is encouraged because that is the way they will keep track of your team’s stats. If members join later in the season, their

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## Weekly Chuckle Returns

**ABBY N. VIRIO**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Much like the “Fantastic Four” movie or a lunch of spicy nachos, the Weekly Chuckle returns this fall with additional doses of frustration, political incorrectness and overall snark-itude (coined it!). Like it or not, *The Current’s* most controversial opinions column begins serving up satire with this week’s special: being a waitress.

If, like the 84 percent of students who attend UMSL, you find yourself living off-campus, you have probably encountered the dreaded r-word: rent. You thought that trading in substantial debt to smooch into a dorm room, leave Fluffy at home and eat whatever science experiment ProHo is serving was a good idea until you set eyes on that rental agreement...and it all became so real. So what did you have to do? Get a better paying job. And that, my friends, brings us to how you become a night shift waitress on the Delmar Loop.

For some reason (perhaps momentary lack of oxygen to my brain), I thought that a door-to-door job search on the Loop was a great way to find a job. Two weeks later, I am hauling my sore feet down Delmar to a dark parking lot where (hopefully) my car is not sitting on blocks, and I can go home. Apart from fearing for my life and well-being, there are some other fantastic perks to being a waitress in the city of St. Louis.

The first of these incredible pros is being paid under minimum wage. At a normal job, you might fold clothes,

stock storerooms or deliver pizza and make \$8 an hour before taxes strip you bare. No such excess as a waitress! You will be expected to complete a six hour shift of running, jumping and begging for spare change to walk away with \$5 an hour before tax, plus whatever anybody leaves you, which is always an exciting surprise! I love feeling like I am spinning the wheel with Bob Barker every time a family exits my place of business. A whole dollar after I read the entire menu aloud for you and scraped your toddler’s plate off the floor? How did I ever deserve such generosity?

The second perk is closely connected to such toddlers: touching people’s food! The icing on this cake is that people do not even need to be toddlers to turn my clean tables into Omaha beach. Even adults eat like it is a war zone. Lucky me— when they leave, I get to plunge my hands, raw from constant washing, into shakes, ketchup, used napkins, and mysterious goop. Germs, what are those? Please keep stirring all your leftovers into a glob onto your plate and planting your silverware upside-down inside like a proud, nasty flag. The beach is yours, you helpful customer.

Lastly, there is a venomous rumor that waitresses make all their tips off the bar and run home with more cash than they can tuck into their half-apron. If this was the case, my tip-toe to my car whilst avoiding eye contact with hobos would be even more dangerous. Fortunately, diner waitresses do not actually

**Continued online at**  
[thecurrent-online.com](http://thecurrent-online.com)

## What’s Trending for Perfect Fall Outfits

**EMILY KIGHT**  
STAFF WRITER

With fall quickly approaching, it is time to purchase the essentials for the season. As you all know, Missouri weather is completely unpredictable, so it is best to get what you need now before the best items become sold out and the weather becomes too chilly for maxi dresses and denim shorts. Trends change yearly and it is time to get caught up on what you need to buy for this season. The following is a guide to types of clothing that are definitely ‘in’ for your wardrobe this fall.

1. Starting from the bottom, the first trend this fall that needs to make its way into your closet is a pair of brown riding boots. I bought mine from Charlotte Russe last year and they were worn practically every day. They go with anything and you will get your money’s worth. Instead of buying the \$80 to \$100 Steve Madden boots from Famous Footwear, spend \$40 on a pair from Charlotte Russe or Forever 21 and they will hold up to the wear and tear you put on them just as well. A great pair of knee-high riding boots can match anything from leggings and a sweater to your favorite fall dress.

2. Something I see becoming increasingly popular is boot socks. These are long socks with details along the top that pop out around the tops of the boots, below your knee or can even be legwarmers with the same detailing. These add a bit of interest to a less tra-

ditional area. Pair these boot socks with your riding boots and leggings. They will give the perfect little hint of detail in a spot where people would least expect it.

3. Next on the list is a ¾ or long sleeve t-shirt dress. These dresses are unbelievably comfortable. I own two and they are without a doubt what I am most looking forward to wearing this fall. The fabric is thick enough that you will not be freezing on those chilly nights at a bonfire but you also will not feel suffocated if Missouri weather throws you a curveball in late November. Wear this dress with the riding boots and boot socks mentioned above and you are even closer to creating the perfect fall outfit.

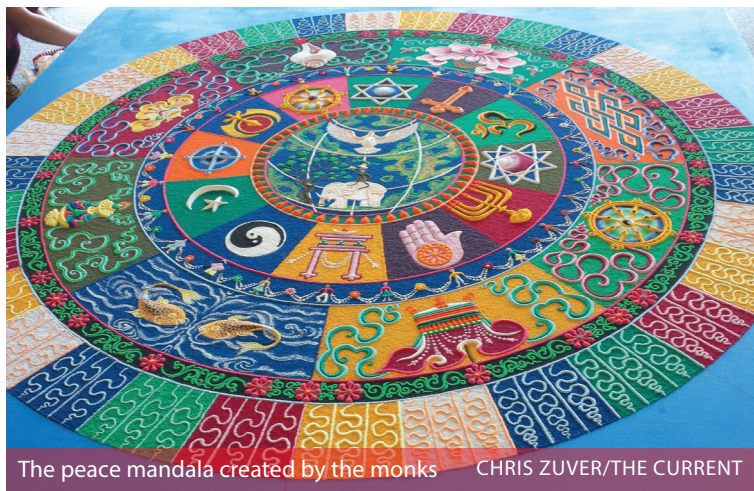
4. Now it is time to bring out the bigger accessories. Fall is the time for cute printed and colorful scarves! This season, I see blanket scarves becoming very popular. These are scarves that are bigger and softer which creates a blanket effect when worn. They come in different prints and colors but they also keep you warm. Fall is all about layers, and why not layer up and be fashionable at the same time? Combine with boot socks, riding boots and a t-shirt dress for a complete look.

5. The last essential for fall is a bit different. Wide-brim floppy hats are traditionally an accessory for summer but they are becoming popular for fall as well. The brim becomes smaller for

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# UMSL Welcomes Buddhist Monks



The peace mandala created by the monks CHRIS ZUVER/THE CURRENT

**CHRIS ZUVER**  
STAFF WRITER

**Continued from Page 1**

about the ongoing political climate in Tibet and raise money to support their community in India.

Over the three days that the monks occupied the lounge, there were also other smaller events within this event. On the first day, they held the opening ceremony, which led into the gradual but heavily calculated process of creating the mandala itself. This project involved heavily detailed planning and the placing of sand as well as multiple meditations.

The monks start from the center and work their way outward. At the core there is a depiction of animals. The next level outward consists of symbols of major world religions and beyond that is a circle of various other symbolic images. All of this is encircled by a colorful outer design. The monks worked steadily and cautiously in peace. Meanwhile, out front of the lounge, the monks sold various items associated with their home culture to help raise money as well.

On the second day, they continued their work and also held an open event called "Dharma Talk" in which people gathered in the SGA Chamber to watch the monks demonstrate their meditations and music and answer questions.

On the last day at 4 p.m., many gathered around the completed mandala. Their leader, Tsewang, spoke in detail about the mandala, explaining the meaning of each part as well as the overall meaning. Then they began the process of the closing ceremony. This was a very precise process involving various deliberate movements and musical chants.

Afterwards, the dissolution began. The monks gathered around the mandala and began carefully brushing it into a

single pile of sand, making sure that the brush strokes were made in a certain pattern. Then the sand was moved into a vase and the procession left the lounge and went outside to the eastern pond near the MSC.

The men chanted again

by the side of the water. Many watched in interest as the leader produced the vase of sand and joined in the chanting. Finally, he turned the vase upside down and released the sand. It dissolved across the water and then the ceremony was over.

"Everything is symbolic with Tibetan Buddhism," said Maher. "The monks dissolve the work to show the impermanence of us. However, the mandala also says to us that we have a rich life here. Let's make it beautiful."

The monks are in the middle of a 12 month tour through various cities in the country. After they leave St. Louis, they will visit Kansas City. However, there is still time to see them

in St. Louis this week. They will be visiting Harris-Stowe State University September 8 through September 10.

For more information about the upcoming show, go to [sacredarttour.org/university-of-missouri-9-1-to-9-3-2015/](http://sacredarttour.org/university-of-missouri-9-1-to-9-3-2015/) for a full schedule at Harris-Stowe. For more information about the Drepung Gomang Monastery, visit [drepunggomang.org](http://drepunggomang.org).



Dissolution of sand mandala in the pond near the MSC rotunda patio CHRIS ZUVER/THE CURRENT

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